THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir there is a proposal under Government's consideration. The proposals for amendment to the Apprentices Act, 1961 have been approved by the Cabinet. The major features of the Amendments are:—

1. Simplifying the registration of Contract of Apprentices.
2. Flexibility to the employers to adjust the number of apprentices in different trades.
3. Prescribing the qualifications of the instructional staff for imparting the training.
4. Reducing the sharing of Training cost of the Government by lowering the limit of workers' strength.
5. Imposing higher penality on the defaulting establishments.

The proposed Amendment Bill is being drafted by the Ministry of Law, Justice & Company Affairs and will be placed before the Parliament.

(c) to (e) No, Sir, but there are some financial commitments on both Central and State Govts, to fulfil the provisions made in the Apprentices Act, 1961, and Apprenticeship Rules, 1991 thereunder, for conducting Apprenticeship Training Programme to prepare trained manpower for the Industries.

वर्ष 2002 तक सभी के लिए रोजगार

62. **श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:**
श्री राम जेठमलानी:

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने वर्ष 2002 तक सभी के लिए रोजगार उपलब्ध कराने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इस लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करने के लिए अतिरिक्त रोजगार के अवसर उत्पन्न करने हेतु कोई वार्षिक लक्ष्य दर भी निर्धारित की गई थी; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसकी वार्षिक लक्ष्य दर क्या थी?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री पी० ए० संगमा): (क) से (ग) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में रोजगार नीति, 10 वर्षों में यथा 2002 तक लगभग पूर्ण रोजगार स्थिति पाने के लक्ष्य हेतु एक मध्यावधि परिप्रेक्ष्य के भाग के रूप में बनायी गई है। 8वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के पहले 3 वर्षों के दौरान लगभग 19.6 मिलियन अतिरिक्त रोजगार के अवसर या प्रतिवर्ष औसतन 6.5 मिलियन रोजगार के अवसर सृजित किये जाने अनुमानित हैं। आठवीं योजना में परिकल्पित औसतन 8.5 मिलियन प्रतिवर्ष की तुलना में रोजगार के अवसरों में वार्षिक वृद्धि कम है क्योंकि मुख्यतः इस अवधि के दौरान अर्थव्यवस्था की विकास दर आठवीं योजना में निर्धारित लक्ष्य 5.6% प्रतिवर्ष से कम रही। हालांकि योजना के शेष वर्षों हेतु प्रति वर्ष रोजगार के अवसर की विकास दर के लिए कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किया गया है, यह अनुमानित किया गया है कि आने वाले वर्षों में जैसे-जैसे अर्थव्यवस्था की विकास दर बढ़ेगी, आठवीं योजना के रोजगार के लक्ष्य को पूरा किया जा सकेगा।

Employment in Punjab Through Employment Exchanges

63. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a scheme for self employment for the registered unemployed persons in the country particularly in the State of Punjab during the year 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what effective measures Government propose to create more employment for the educated and uneducated youths of the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGA): (a) and (b) As per the information received from Planning Commission, various Central Ministries and the State of Punjab, there is no mention of new scheme introduced during 1995-96 on self employment for the Registered unemployed persons in the country including in the State of Punjab. However, the assistance is being provided to different target groups in the

country including the State of Punjab under the on going schemes on self employment like Integrated Rural Development programme, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana, Scheme for Urban Micro Enterprises under Nehru Rozgar Yojana, etc.

(c) It may be mentioned that employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Plan envisages a strategy for accelerating growth of productive employment opportunities in the country both for the educated as well as the uneducated unemployed on the basis of a faster growth of employment-Intensive sectors, sub-sectors and activities. In addition, various special employment schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Nehru Rozgar yojana, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana etc. being implemented in various states, provide additional wage and self employment opportunities.

Import of Sugar

64. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the various news items appearing in the print media against the import of sugar; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the early part of the current season when the firm production trends were not available, Government, with a view to ensure adequate availability of sugar for public distribution System, in the event of sugar production not coming up to the expected level, have directed STC& MMTC to enter into forward contracts for import of sugar. However, in view of the encouraging production trends indicative of higher level of production likely to be achieved, Government has decided to dispose of as much as of the contracted sugar as is possible in the international market at the best possible price.

Importers availing benefits of Export Capital Goods Scheme

65. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of importers who had availed of the benefits of Export Capital Goods Scheme that provides for import of machinery at concessional rates of duty against export obligations during 1994-95;

(b) how many of these importers defaulted in fulfilling the export commitments; and

(c) what action has been taken/ proposed to be taken against such defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) During the year 1994-95, 2077 licences were issued under EPCG Scheme. As the Export Obligation period against these licences is valid till 1999-2000, there is no question of any default at this stage.

राष्ट्रीय श्रम केन्द्र

66. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि असंगठित क्षेत्र के कर्मकारों के हितों के संरक्षण के लिए हाल ही में राष्ट्रीय श्रम केन्द्र (नेशनल सेन्टर फार लेबर) नामक मजदूर संगठन का गठन किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में पूरा ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि असंगठित क्षेत्र में कार्यरत कर्मकारों की दशा संगठित क्षेत्र के व्यक्तियों की तुलना में बहुत खराब है;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है; और